

New Bedford
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Presentation
to
Regional Response Team



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by

Capt G.F. IRELAND, USCG
Onscene Coordinator
New Bedford PCB response

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BACKGROUND

On March 1982 the Coast Guard announced that it was using CERCLA authority to initiate the first step in an immediate removal action to the New Bedford PCB problem. The Commanding Officer, Marine Safety Office, Providence would be the On-Scene Coordinator as that site is within the Providence zone.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this action was three fold:

Inform the public of the high readings in the area.

Take action to further define the problem.

Secure/post the highly contaminated area as necessary.

ACTION TAKEN

Readings from soil samples reveal that the "hot spot" in the vicinity of the Aerovox outfalls are fairly well defined.

Further, the work also revealed the depth of the contamination. This is noteworthy because to our knowledge this is the first time the contaminated areas had been defined by these dimensions and is obviously useful information for anyone trying to scope out a dredging operation.

Attempts were made to take examples adjacent to the Cornell Dubler plant but the bottom texture was such that a core sampler could not be utilized.

Signs were posted in strategic locations to warn residents of the PCB hazard.

The signs are written in Portuguese as well as in English, and are of substantial construction.

RESOURCES UTILIZED

City of New Bedford

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, DEQE and CZM

Environmental Protection Agency

Jet Line Services Inc.

U.S. Coast Guard

Marine Safety Office, Providence

R&D Center, Groton

Atlantic Strike Team

Public Information Assist Team

Coast Guard Group, Woods Hole, MA